

To: Smith - CDPHE, Warren[warren.smith@state.co.us];
mark.salley@state.co.us[mark.salley@state.co.us]
From: Mylott, Richard
Sent: Thur 8/6/2015 6:20:10 PM
Subject: RE: Pictures from the Gold King release

fyi

August 6 EPA Statement on Gold King Mine Release

Yesterday, an EPA team working to investigate and address contamination at the Gold King Mine in San Juan County, Colo. unexpectedly triggered a large release of mine waste water into the upper portions of Cement Creek. Initial estimates are that the release contained approximately 1M gallons of water that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed.

Following the release, the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment notified water users downstream so they could take appropriate steps to turn off intakes until the contaminated water passes.

The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Cement Creek and into the Animas River. The water associated with the release is obvious and highly discolored. As a precaution, EPA recommends that recreational users of the Animas River avoid contact with or use of the river until the pulse of mine water passes. Over the next several days, EPA teams will be sampling and investigating downstream locations to confirm that the release has passed and poses no additional concerns for aquatic life or water users. EPA will also be assessing damage near the mine portal and any residual releases of water at the mine site.

From: Smith - CDPHE, Warren [mailto:warren.smith@state.co.us]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 9:35 AM
To: Mylott, Richard

Subject: Fwd: Pictures from the Gold King release

This just in.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jamison - CDPHE, Doug** <doug.jamison@state.co.us>

Date: Thu, Aug 6, 2015 at 9:26 AM

Subject: Fwd: Pictures from the Gold King release

To: Randy Perlis <randy.perlis@state.co.us>, "Schmittdiel, Paula"

<Schmittdiel.Paula@epa.gov>, "Smith, Warren" <warren.smith@state.co.us>, Monica Sheets - CDPHE <monica.sheets@state.co.us>, "Baughman, GARY" <gary.baughman@state.co.us>

Pictures

Doug Jamison

Superfund/Brownfields Unit Leader

State of Colorado, Dept. of Public Health and Environment

4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver 80246

office: [303.692.3404](tel:303.692.3404) | fax: [303.691.7878](tel:303.691.7878)

email: doug.jamison@state.co.us

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Naugle - CDPHE, Greg** <greg.naugle@state.co.us>

Date: Thu, Aug 6, 2015 at 9:08 AM

Subject: Pictures from the Gold King release

To: Sarah Johnson <sarah.johnson@state.co.us>, Andrew Ross - CDPHE

<andrew.ross@state.co.us>, Aimee Konowal - CDPHE <aimee.konowal@state.co.us>, Nicole

Rowan - CDPHE <nicole.rowan@state.co.us>, Patrick Pfaltzgraff - CDPHE

<patrick.j.pfaltzgraff@state.co.us>

Cc: Doug Jamison - CDPHE <Doug.Jamison@state.co.us>

Here are a couple of pictures Tom Schaffer, in our Grand Junction office, received of the Gold King release yesterday.

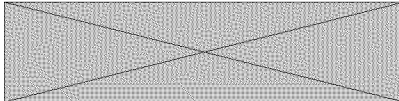
The first one appears to be cement creek, while the second looks like the Animas.

EPA is taking the lead on the spill, and they are trying to coordinate a call for later today.





Greg Naugle
Section Manager
Field Services Section



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24-hr Environmental Release/Incident Report Line: 1-877-518-5608

[Colorado Water Quality Regulations](#)

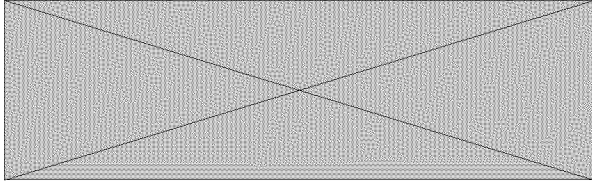
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--

Warren Smith, APR

Community Involvement Manager

Community Involvement Unit



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